

Spark Gap

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Photo by Ed Conder N9IZN (another 2005 Outstanding Nominee)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Ernest Clark KB9SKI named one of Indiana's Outstanding Amateur Radio Operator by IRCC

Ernest Clark KB9SKI has been named as one of Indiana's Outstanding Amateur Radio Operators by the Indiana Radio Club Council. Ernest was one of seven outstanding hams honored during a ceremony held during the 2005 Ft. Wayne Hamvention. IRCC Vice President Jack Parker W8ISH, the 2000 Indiana Outstanding Amateur of the Year, heads up the IRCC awards selection committee.

For Immediate Release 11-19-05
2005 IRCC OUTSTANDING AMATEUR OF THE YEAR
Jim Edwards, KA9DIF

It's with great pleasure the Indiana Radio Club Council presents the 2005 OUTSTANDING AMATEUR OF THE YEAR award to Jim Edwards, KA9DIF.

Jim has been active in amateur radio for over two decades. He continues to lend his expertise as a volunteer examiner to the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association.

Jim is the director of the Ryves Hall Youth Center, a facility for underprivileged children, here in Terre Haute. Since becoming director in 1982, Jim has been a positive role model to countless children in the Terre Haute area. Amateur Radio is an important part of his life and that of his family. Three members of his family are licensed as well.

Our outstanding amateur of the year is always ready at a moment's notice to aid local Amateur Radio projects. Earlier this year, on short notice, he stepped in and offered his facility for the local ham radio Tailgate swap meet..

Over the years, Jim Edwards has demonstrated a dedication and passion for bringing Amateur Radio to underprivileged kids. Under his direction, his school has developed a thriving Amateur Radio program.

With the help of a few others, his school has expanded it's curriculum beyond the classroom by holding regularly scheduled Technician classes. Those extracurricular classes have lead to Amateur

Radio licenses for many under privileged youths and some of their parents as well. His ability to discover and take advantage of various grants and donations has provided funds to build a complete Amateur Radio station at his educational facility covering 2 meters, 70 centimeters and HF. Jim

has also organized a school Amateur Radio Club, with the call sign KC9EKW (every kid wins).

With such a distinguished background it's easy to see why not only the kids win, but his community and amateur radio as well.

Six nominees from around the state were also honored. They include Kevin Berlen-K9HX, Clay City, Ernest Clark KB9SKI, Greenwood, Ed Conder N9IZN, Camby, Peter Crasher W9DRB, Chrisney, Robert Griggs W9MKA, New Castle and Carl Zager KB9RVB, Bloomington.

For more info contact Jack Parker W8ISH, jparker@iquest.net or 317-881-0817

ARES emergency net established after Missouri dam break

Dec 16, 2005

When millions of gallons of water breached the wall of a mountaintop hydroelectric



reservoir in rural Reynolds County, Missouri, December 14, an ARES emergency net was quickly established on the Van Buren repeater. The deluge washed down the mountainside, sweeping away homes and vehicles and flooding the valley below. A dwelling occupied by a

park superintendent, his wife and three children was among those washed away. The family was found a half-mile away, and the children all were hospitalized, at least one of them in serious condition.

The town of Lesterville was under a voluntary evacuation order. ARRL District G Emergency Coordinator Dave Hannigan, KN0D, reports stations checked into the net from Poplar Bluff, Piedmont, Eminence, Elsimore, Van Buren, Redford and Koshkonong.

The net also heard from mobile stations near Leper, Piedmont, Van Buren and Ironton. "KC0SEH checked in from radio station FM

91.3 in Van Buren and KC0SWU from radio 106.7 in Ellington," Hannigan said. The reservoir breach reported occurred after a pump failed to shut down at utility Ameren UE's Taum Sauk hydroelectric plant, which stores water from the Black River in an upper reservoir, releasing it to a lower reservoir to generate electricity. Hannigan said HF and VHF stations activated at emergency operations centers in Shannon and Carter counties.

"I was contacted by the Shannon County sheriffs dispatcher through the NPS [National Park Service] dispatch," Hannigan said. "The various net controllers kept me updated as I was working but had a 2 meter [equipment] with me. No emergency traffic was passed but it was a good exercise, and I was really proud of the rapid wide-area VHF radio coverage." In all, 16 stations responded to the emergency callup.—Missouri SM Don Moore, KM0R

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Missouri Dam Breaks

Note: This e-mail was recently received from Tug Sutton

Thanks to all of you for your efforts and continued support for public safety. We are planning a full exercise on April 29, 2006, and would like for you to be a big part of that. Have a great, safe holiday. TS



Silent Key

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of this amateur:
W9RTH, Adah M. Elliott

New MARC Members

It is with great pleasure we announce a new member of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club.

K9ICJ, Ryan Rather
Welcome!



ARRL/The Salvation Army 2005 Holiday Toy Drive chairperson and country music star Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, helps move some new bicycles to the loading dock at the Memphis warehouse.

It's a Convoy! 2005 Holiday Toy Drive Trucks Hit the Highway

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 16, 2005—A convoy carrying contributions to the ARRL/Salvation Army Holiday Toy Drive set off December 15 from the Memphis warehouse where the toys have been collecting for several weeks. On hand to see them off were representatives of the ARRL, The Salvation Army, country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, Amateur Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus, whom Loveless summoned via 2 meters. Loveless, who served as national chairperson for the campaign, expressed her thanks to Amateur Radio clubs and individual hams who gave to the drive.

"I think it's just amazing! For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them—from all around—for collecting," Loveless told ARRL. "Love is a word that truly everybody knows."

It took three trucks to contain the 4500 toys bound for youngsters along the US Gulf Coast displaced or left homeless as a result of this year's devastating hurricanes.

ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, The Salvation Army's Bill Feist, WB8BZH, and Loveless headlined a send-off ceremony as volunteers, coordinated by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, packed up the trucks. Lowenthal says the Holiday Toy Drive received donations from upward of three dozen states plus

the US Virgin Islands.

At the warehouse, Delta Amateur Radio Club members began a W1AW/4 special event operation December 15. That was expected to continue for another day, possibly longer. A W1AW mobile station also is on the air from a vehicle shadowing the truck convoy, first headed to The Salvation Army's Gulf Area headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, which will serve as the distribution center—and then to Biloxi. The convoy may be trackable via APRS.

The ARRL partnered with The Salvation Army for this year's campaign. Feist, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, said it was an exciting occasion and everything went smoothly.

"They had some media here, and I was happy to see Amateur Radio get some public credit for what they have done," Feist said.

"As The Salvation Army's representative, we are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi."

Pitts reports that League members gave more than \$4000 in cash donations to purchase even more toys—especially for older youngsters—and transport them to the Gulf Coast. Impressed by an electronics experimenter's kit that one radio amateur had contributed, Pitts used a portion of the cash donations to purchase 150 more kits.

"The kits not only are appropriate for older children, but they may well spark a greater interest in electronics," he remarked.

Supplementing the donations from ARRL members, the Memphis Wal-Mart has given the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA) \$1000 to be split between the kids on the Gulf Coast and youngsters from the Gulf Coast at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

The ARRL thanks everyone who contributed to and volunteered to assist in making the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive a success. ■

***WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone***

***Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST***

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!



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Spark Gap

2005/2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

DECEMBER 2005

17 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

JANUARY 2006

10 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

21 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

FEBRUARY 2006

4 **Mini-Marathon 5K Pre-Race**

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

14 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

18 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 **Cabin Fever Hamfest** (LaPorte Amateur Radio Club)

Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge Street, LaPorte, IN

MARCH 2006

4 **Mini-Marathon 10K Pre-Race**

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

14 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

18 **MARC Meeting**

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 **Columbus HamFest** (Columbus Amateur Radio Club)

Community Building at 4-H Fairgrounds, , State Route 11, Columbus, IN

25 **Spring Fling Hamfest** (Michigan City ARC)

Diamond Cove, 716 US HWY 212, Michigan City, IN

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.